01173

1972/12/21

Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

Kennedy
HWE

0 211658Z DEC 72 ZFF-6
FM USDEL FRANCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6560
INFO RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 1294
BT
S E C R E T USDEL FRANCE 24592

5 8 1 2 Q
21 DEC 72 Z17 19

NODIS/PARIS MEETINGS/PLUS

1. NOTWITHSTANDING A NUMBER OF PRESS REPORTS THAT NEXT TECHNICAL MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED, WE HAVE HAD NO RPT NO COMMUNICATION FROM OTHER SIDE TO ALTER THE PROPOSAL MADE YESTERDAY BY THACH FOR A MEETING DEC. 23 AT TEN A.M. AT GIF. AT TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING NGUYEN THAN LE WAS REPEATEDLY PRESSED ON THIS POINT, BUT HE DOGGEDLY EVADED GIVING REPLY IN EITHER ONE SENSE OR THE OTHER.

2. COMMUNIST AMBIGUITY SEEMS DESIGNED TO SUGGEST THAT COMMUNISTS MAY YET CANCEL SHOULD BOMBINGS CONTINUE, TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF WEAKNESS WHICH A MERE THREE-DAY POSTPONEMENT WOULD IMPLY, AND TO GAIN TIME FOR BASIC DECISIONS TO BE MADE IN HANOI.

GDS
PORTER

SECRET

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By TB NARA Date 3/24/00

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